

MEGHAN BLANCO (California State Bar No. 238171)
1 LAW OFFICES OF MEGHAN BLANCO
2 28202 Cabot Road, Suite 300
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677
3 Telephone: (949) 296-9869
Facsimile: (949) 606-8988
mblanco@meganblanco.com
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5 Attorney for Defendant:
JOHN OLIVAS
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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
9

10 THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
11 Plaintiff,
12 vs.
13 JOHN JACON OLIVAS,
14 Defendant.
15

16 Case No. 18-CR-231-JGB
17

***EX PARTE MOTION TO CONTINUE
TRIAL ONE MONTH SO DEFENSE
COUNSEL CAN (1) REVIEW EXPERT
REPORTS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN
PRODUCED YET AND (2) RETAIN
AN EXPERT TO INTERPRET NEWLY
PRODUCED EVIDENCE***

18 TO THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE: **Please note** Defendant
19 John Olivas files the instant *ex parte* motion to continue trial one month so he can (1)
20 review expert reports that have not yet been produced and (2) retain an expert to interpret
21 new evidence that was produced on November 23, 2021.

22 This *ex parte* motion is based on the attached Declaration of Meghan Blanco.

23 Dated: November 27, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

24 By: /s/ Meghan Blanco
25 MEGHAN A. BLANCO
Attorney for Defendant

1 DECLARATION OF MEGHAN BLANCO

2 I, Meghan Blanco, declare,

3 1. I am licensed to practice law in the State of California and before this Court. I
4 represent John Olivas in the above-entitled action. I submit this declaration in
5 support of his *Ex Parte* Motion for Continuance of the Trial Date. The defense
6 requests that the Court continue the trial date by one month so defense counsel can
7 (1) review expert reports that have not yet been produced by the government and
8 (2) retain its own expert to interpret medical records that were produced on
9 November 23, 2021.

10 2. On July 19, 2021, the government sought to introduce evidence that Mr. Olivas
11 previously fractured the ribs of alleged victim N.B., either as 404(b) evidence or as
12 evidence that is inextricably intertwined with the charged rapes. In addition, the
13 government sought to introduce Mr. Olivas's prior guilty plea to infliction of
14 corporal injury resulting from a traumatic condition upon a cohabitant, which I
15 believe stemmed from alleged victim N.B.'s claim that Mr. Olivas fractured her
16 ribs around August 6, 2012.

17 3. The government presented extensive evidence of the allegedly fractured ribs to the
18 grand jury that indicted Mr. Olivas and described the events in detail in its motion
19 *in limine* one. *See Mot.* at 2 ("The next day, defendant used physical force to
20 restrain and prevent N.B. from leaving their residence and squeezed her body so
21 hard he fractured her ribs"); 9 ("Defendant wrapped his arms around her body
22 with enough force that her ribs fractured, then he denied her request to receive
23 medical care. In connection with this conduct, defendant was charged with
24 and pleaded guilty to . . . (2) infliction of corporal injury resulting in a traumatic
25 condition upon a cohabitant, N.B."); 9 ("Defendant raped N.B. again on or about
November 9, 2012, just a few days after defendant fractured N.B.'s ribs by

1 grabbing and squeezing her"); and 9 ("Defendant wanted to have sex, but N.B.'s
2 ribs hurt too much so she told him no").

3 4. N.B. repeatedly told assigned agents and prosecutors that Mr. Olivas fractured her
4 ribs.

5 5. The government previously produced a copy of N.B.'s medical records, which I
6 believe it received from the Riverside Police Department. Approximately two
7 weeks ago, it asked Mr. Olivas to stipulate to the foundation of those medical
8 records. I am on the complex felony trial panel in Riverside. In my experience,
9 Riverside PD frequently receives medical records directly from witnesses and
10 victims instead of from medical providers. For this reason, Mr. Olivas declined to
11 stipulate to foundation of the medical records until he reviewed a complete set of
12 medical records from the provider.

13 6. On November 23, 2021, the government produced a complete set of N.B.'s
14 medical records. Contrary to N.B.'s representations, the complete set produced on
15 November 23, 2021, indicated that doctors did not detect a fracture or any bruising
16 to N.B.'s ribs.

17 7. It appears that Mr. Olivas may have pleaded guilty in his state case, pursuant to a
18 *People v. West* plea, without the benefit of this critical, exculpatory evidence. I
19 have contacted Mr. Olivas's state attorneys and intend to speak with them as soon
20 as they are available.

21 8. I contacted the government this evening. The government indicated that it intends
22 to interview N.B.'s medical providers, but it has not done so yet and does not
23 believe it will be able to interview them before Monday. It also suggested that
24 N.B.'s ribs may have been fractured even though the x-rays did not detect a
25 fracture and treating doctors did not observe bruising or abnormalities.

9. I need to review the reports of interviews of N.B.'s medical providers, which have
not been produced yet, and retain my own expert to interpret the newly produced

medical records and any new statements that N.B.'s medical providers may make.

I also need to confer with Mr. Olivas's state counsel regarding apparent *Brady* evidence that was never produced in his state case.

10. I have contacted two potential experts via email but have not received a response concerning their current availability.

11. For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Court grant a reasonable, one month continuance of the trial date.

12. I declare under penalty of perjury of the Laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct.

13. Executed this 27 day of November, 2021, in San Clemente, California.

/s/ *Meghan Blanco*
MEGHAN A. BLANCO
Attorney for Defendant
JOHN OLIVAS